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## Letter dated 17 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to our letter dated 3 September 2013 and the annex thereto (S/2013/528) with the communiqué issued on the successful visit of Mr. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan, to the Sudan, in response to the kind invitation of President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, I have the honour to transmit to you and through you to the esteemed members of the Security Council a summary report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan dated 14 September 2013 on the developments following the meeting of the two Presidents and the positive steps taken so far regarding the implementation of the cooperation agreements of 27 September 2012 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali **Osman**
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 17 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

### Developments following President Salva Kiir's visit to Khartoum: additional steps to strengthen confidence and cooperation between the two countries

Following the visit of His Excellency the President of the Republic of South Sudan in early September 2013, the two countries have stepped up their communication and coordination and adopted further confidence-building measures. Those actions took place in a positive environment, backed by the strong political will of both leaders to promote relations of peaceful coexistence, good neighbourliness and the realization of the shared interests of the two peoples, whose bonds of friendship, kinship and exchange cannot be severed despite the split. The two countries and peoples can thereby offer the world an African model rooted in cooperation and integration between two States emerging from decades of conflict.

The following is a summary of what has been achieved in the days since President Salva Kiir's visit to the Sudan:

During the latest visit of the Chairperson of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, President Thabo Mbeki, the two Heads of State and President Mbeki signed a joint letter to the international community, in implementation of the Cooperation Agreement between the Sudan and South Sudan, regarding debt relief for the Sudan and support for the development of South Sudan as a new State. The letter appealed for the regional and international communities to help meet one third of the economic shortfall incurred by the Sudan owing to loss of the South's oil revenues (estimated at 3.5 billion United States dollars) after secession. It called for the unilateral economic sanctions against the Sudan to be lifted.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of both countries have received invitations from the European Union to visit Brussels for consultations with European Union officials regarding European Union support for the two countries, particularly on cross-border projects. This visit would provide an opportunity for the ministers to coordinate their forthcoming bilateral diplomatic activities. In particular, their countries have been invited by the World Bank to discuss the issue of the Sudan's debt during the Bank's annual meetings in October 2013. The ministers have been invited to a consultative meeting on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in order to discuss the development of cooperative relations between their countries. The meeting will be attended by representatives of the African States and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

With a view to fostering contact at various levels, the First Vice-President of the Sudan, Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, has invited his counterpart the Vice-President of the Republic of South Sudan, James Wani Ega, to visit the Sudan, where they are to co-chair the first meeting of the High-level Joint Committee is to be held. As co-chair of the Joint Implementation Mechanism, along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of South Sudan, the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has established the Sudanese component of the Joint Implementation Mechanism. The latter will act as

rapporteur to the Joint High-level Committee. It will meet for the first time in the coming period with a view to coordinating and following up the implementation of all agreements between the two countries. It will bolster the joint diplomatic effort expressed in the memorandum of understanding on political consultation and cooperation signed by the two Ministries during President Salva Kiir's visit to the Sudan.

Similarly, the Minister of the Interior of the Sudan has been invited by his counterpart to visit Juba soon in order to discuss how each country treats citizens of the other. They will address such issues as facilitating the movement of citizens, the agreement on the four freedoms, and the establishment of commercial crossing points along the borders.

At the legislative level, the speakers of the South Sudan National Assembly and the Council of States of South Sudan are expected to visit the Sudan soon in the context of bilateral, regional and international parliamentary cooperation. A parliamentary delegation from the Sudan recently made a successful visit to Juba.

Turning to the private sector, working relations between the two countries have been dynamic. A delegation headed by the President of the South Sudan Chamber of Commerce, Agriculture and Industry has visited the Sudan, travelling on the first Southern Sudan Airlines airline's first flight from South Sudan to Khartoum. It was agreed that a large delegation of businessmen, including all chambers and branches of the Federation of Sudanese Business Owners and Employers, would visit Juba in the coming days.

In conclusion, the Government of Sudan hopes that relations between the two kindred countries will continue to gather pace for their shared benefit. The Government of the Sudan will spare no effort in promoting this positive trend, and looks forward to the support of the regional and international community in word and in deed. The Government of Sudan commends the efforts of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel headed by President Thabo Mbeki and the African Union Commission and the efforts of President Hailemariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.